

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF
SOUTHBORO',
FOR THE
SCHOOL YEAR, 1859-'60.

BOSTON:
CHAS. H. CROSBY, PRINTER, 3 WATER STREET.
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REPORT.

The School Committee for the year ending March, 1860, hereby REPORT:

We congratulate the town upon the noble stand it has taken in favor of education. The past year by Divine Providence, has afforded us occasion for public rejoicing; for never has there been a year in the history of Southboro,' in which such advances have been made in an educational direction as 1859 records. The citizens, one and all, have been seized with a just enthusiasm, which has found expression in new, elegant and commodious houses, in nearly all the school districts in town. In Wards 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6, the old, worn out, venerable temples, (venerable for what they were intended for, rather than for what they were), have been supplanted by new and more modern structures, suited to the wants and demands of the times. In Ward 7, a room prepared a few years since, has been furnished, for the accommodation of the higher department of that school.

The teachers were requested to give particular attention to Reading, Spelling and Writing. Especially did we enjoin this upon the teachers of the Summer schools. We desired them not to forget punctuation, the abbreviations, the use of capital letters; and we have reason to believe that this request has been cheerfully responded to by all. The teachers in Wards 1, 2 and 3, were patient and persevering. A good number of the scholars in Ward 2, have measurably

mastered the points, abbreviations and capital letters, together with the elementary sound of each letter. The pupils were taught to spell, by using the sounds merely, a practice we very much approve. Punctuation was well taught in all the Summer schools, save Ward 4. In reading, much improvement has been made. Credit is due to all the teachers of the Winter schools, for their efforts in this direction. Spelling, too, has received considerable attention, while the number of Writing Books, is larger than ever before. This work has been well begun, and if teachers are as faithful for the next, as during the past year, we shall hear of greater progress in all our schools.

We charged them to use every effort in their power, to promote punctuality in their respective schools. This, they have also done, and the result is very gratifying. We found Wards 1, 2, 3 and 6, taking the lead in Summer, Ward 2 standing first.

During the Fall and Winter Terms, No. 1 has taken the first rank, and No. 3, the second. There has been amendment in this respect, as already hinted, in nearly all the schools the past year, but none more striking than that of Ward 3.

They were further requested to keep their several school-rooms neat and in order. We notified them, that they would be held responsible for damages in and upon the new buildings, and that they must look to offenders for reparation. We considered this course our best security for school property. The teachers were authorized to offer rewards in certain cases, for the detection of guilty parties; but we are happy to say that there has been no occasion calling for the exercise of this precaution. On the other hand, the scholars of the various Wards in town, are deserving great praise, for the care and circumspection with which they have demeaned themselves in this regard. The pupils, we think have laid

that doubt forever to rest, touching their ability or willingness to keep a good building and its furniture in order. Not a fracture, scarcely a scratch, can be found upon any part of the new school property. Its preservation has been so remarkable, that we have thought it deserving of mention in our Report. It is hoped that hereafter the record will be equally fair in this respect.

ABC CLASSES.

We wish to call the attention of the citizens, to this matter. Some of the schools have been a little crowded, in consequence of so many young folks attending. We are disposed to believe, what we have been told by honest parents, that they send the little ones to get them out of the way. They are not sent every day, but only as the weather suits. These children learn very little during the whole winter, in consequence of their irregularity, which of course is not without its effect upon the average attendance of the school, while their proficiency in the art of learning to behave, is anything but an offset, for the mischief they occasion. There is more propriety in their attending the Summer and Fall Terms. But we would respectfully recommend, that as many as possible, learn their A B C at home. The schools in Wards 3 and 4, the past winter have been quite full. The teachers in both instances, have been obliged to call upon the older pupils for aid. The time will come in all probability, when two schools will be demanded in Ward 4, as in Ward 7. We do not desire to be accounted hasty, by hurrying a measure unseasonably to your notice; but will venture the inquiry, whether,—when it is thought needful to build a new house at Cordaville, for the accommo-

dation of the higher department of that school,—the town should not consider the expediency of locating it midway of the two villages, Cordaville and Southville; so as to accommodate the large scholars of both schools, especially as neither village is able to support two schools, but *together are able* to maintain three, and *three* only. A good school might thus be made up from both villages, to be taught by a master, while the small children can attend at the usual place, under the care of female teachers.

We earnestly commend this thought to your consideration.

DESERTION.

There is a fault, in some of our schools, that should be brought home to the serious consideration of parents for correction. It is the allowing children to leave school before the term is finished. We have been saddened to find boys, who having attended school during the early part of the term,—but with great irregularity,—who have been the occasion of many and grievous heart-burnings, because their every act ran directly counter to the known and expressed wish of the teacher; who have plied their noxious arts with such unceasing assiduity, that the teachers have sought and found relief only in tears; for whom the teachers have labored faithfully, with a faint hope of being able to do for them a great unbegun work; who, when the last week approaches, slyly satchel their books and leave. Here the teacher is left to make the most of those remaining; and, when the Committee, looking about, observe untenanted seats, and inquire respecting the absentees, we find it is for no fault of the teacher, but simply because they were

ashamed to show their heads. A great injustice is done the teacher here, for it gives her no opportunity to show what she has done for the boys.

How are teachers to be judged but by results in the aggregate? Are appearances, the last day, under such circumstances, a fair criterion? Never. We consider every member of a school, under a moral obligation to be present at the examination, unless prevented by uncontrollable circumstances.

WARD 1. Three Terms: Summer, Fall, and Winter. Lomira E. Collins has been retained throughout the year. We always found this school in order. Miss Collins gives employment to all. Although a majority were small children, she still contrived to keep them at work. The pupils attested their appreciation of her labors, by presenting to her a memento at the close of the Fall Term. At the examination of the Winter Term, the scholars acquitted themselves with great credit. The recitation of the second class in Geography, was marked perfect. There was also a very interesting class in History. Miss Collins is a progressive teacher; she is watchful and alive to every improvement in her art. This teacher receives our highest praise.

WARD 2.—Ellen C. Rice, teacher. There were the same number of terms as in Ward 1. Miss Rice has a cheerful, winning way with her, which secures at once the good will of her pupils. During the Summer and Fall Terms, her success was admirable. Songs were interspersed with the other exercises, with happy effect. During the Winter Term, the teacher was much tried. A few large boys were the occasion of much anxiety. It was apparent to us that the teacher's task was laborious. Her work was done faithfully, but with a heart uncheered by those little attentions and ready compliances on the part of these scholars, so necessary

for the encouragement of the earnest teacher. There was one removal here for misconduct. Some of the large boys left school near the close of the term, without cause; a practice we must not fail to condemn, as it is not only ruinous to the boys themselves, but also in effect and tendency injurious to the whole school. The final examination, however, was creditable.

WARD 3.—*Summer Term.* Cynthia B. Clifford, teacher. The Committee found on their first visit to this school that Miss Clifford was a good disciplinarian. She lost no time in putting her scholars to work. To some it was a new thing; they had never learned how to study; have always depended upon their neighbor. Miss Clifford surprised the pupils by asking questions not in the book. By this process, they very soon found, that a lesson half learned would not stand them in any stead. A good work has been begun, which we hope to see fully carried out. The teacher maintained good order. She received throughout the cordial support of the district.

Winter Term.—Samuel B. Bird, of Framingham, teacher. Mr. Bird had taught this school previously, with success. He entered upon his duties with his usual earnestness and decision of character. Throughout the term, he enjoyed the good will of all his pupils. We noticed that the back seats were filled with large boys, whom we should have been glad to have found in the High School. Still they were cared for here, as well as could be expected, under the circumstances. Very much was learned, and well learned, notwithstanding the very large number of classes. Occasional aid was sought from the older pupils. We were glad to find all the large scholars present the last day; it spoke volumes in favor of teacher and pupils. The members of this school were remarkably punctual; this school stands No. 2, in this respect. It is but justice to the other members of this school,

to say, that of the whole number of tardy marks, fifty-four—twenty-two belonged to one individual.

Miss Azuba V. Sweet, had charge of the Summer school in Ward 4. This school was large, with a good number of small scholars. Miss Sweet was not successful during the first half of the term, in preserving order. Altogether too many liberties were allowed. There was not that neatness in and about the school-room, that might have been expected. Some strictures were offered by the Committee, whereupon the teacher labored with more zeal and success. Lukewarmness on the part of the district, was offered to us, as an apology for looseness of discipline. The last week was better than the first. Some of the pupils at the close of the term, appeared to good advantage.

Fall Term.—Miss Ellen F. Tiffany, of Hartford Ct., teacher. This teacher, was unfortunate, in following Miss Sweet. If the school had been under a more rigid discipline, during the Summer Term, she would have been less embarrassed. She, however, threw herself into the work, and endeavored to serve every pupil to the best of her ability. We think under the circumstances, she met all reasonable expectations. We regret to state, that but few from the district, visited the school, during either session.

Winter Term. Allen J. Eldridge, of Holliston, teacher. Mr. Eldridge was fresh from the Normal School. Already has he entered the front rank as a teacher. Possessing tact, and good judgment, he leads his scholars forward safely and understandingly. Whatever is undertaken, is thoroughly done. No stone is left unturned. Mr. Eldridge urged upon his classes the importance of self-dependence, reliance upon their own powers. His object was to draw them out. He secured early, the good will of his scholars. Parents have not been wanting in their duty. The examination furnished abundant evidence of good discipline. There was a very

marked improvement in scholarship. The school was decidedly a success.

WARD 5. *Summer Term*.—Maria A. Sawin, teacher. This school is quite small; hardly a score of pupils in all. Miss Sawin was painstaking and faithful; she labored to make the most of her school. Good order was maintained. This school suffered more from tardiness, considering the number of scholars, than any in town. The teacher visited from house to house, with a view of securing greater punctuality, but her success was not flattering. The closing examination was creditable.

Winter Term. Cynthia B. Clifford, teacher. The school was not much larger than in Summer. Miss Clifford devoted her whole time and strength to her scholars. Seldom has this school enjoyed better instruction. The teacher endeavored to unlearn her pupils all loose habits in recitation, and to encourage self-reliance. Notwithstanding the efforts of the teacher, to secure punctuality, the school again stands at the foot of the class in this respect.

This hindrance, coupled with that of sickness, which prevailed in this school, seriously interrupted the general prosperity. The last day, the scholars made a good appearance, some of the older ones doing themselves great credit. The success of the school is attributed to the persevering efforts of the teacher.

WARD 6. *Summer Term*.—Henrietta M. Williams teacher. This was her first school. We were encouraged to believe from Miss Williams' manner in the school-room, that a little experience is only needed, to enable her to take a good stand among our teachers. She endeavored to give constant employment to every pupil. She made better use of the black-board, than some older teachers. There was an air of neatness in the school-room, which we heartily commend. The examination was satisfactory.

Winter Term.—Lucinda P. Works, of Ashland, teacher. This teacher came to us, with very flattering recommendations; and we are happy to say, that she has fully sustained her reputation. Prompt, energetic, earnest, she drew out like qualities from the children. The scholars were taught to give the rule, and a full explanation of every exercise in Arithmetic. A like satisfactory course was pursued in the other branches. We shall be excused for particularizing Geography as being admirably, because so clearly and thoroughly taught. The last day gave evidence of moral, as well as intellectual culture. The prosperity of the school was a little disturbed by sickness. Good progress, however, must be reported. We consider Mrs. Works one of our best teachers.

WARD 7. Sarah M. Wight, teacher. Miss Wight was retained through the school-year. The Committee were gratified with the many evidences of executive talent. This teacher is more at home in a large, than in a small school; can serve forty or fifty, as easily as twenty. Is prompt and earnest. The teacher, throughout, has been supported by the district. Miss Wight has been faithful and untiring in her avocation, and deserves much praise.

Winter Term. First Department. Appleton S. Hemmenway, of Framingham, teacher. Mr. Hemmenway came highly recommended, not only as a teacher of experience, but also as a gentleman of travel, who had gained, from intercourse with the world, a good knowledge of human nature. Mr. Hemmenway has not fallen below his credentials. The sciences were taught patiently and thoroughly. Without the usual review, the scholars were remarkably prompt and sure. The large number of writing-books, indicated attention and progress; this feature was very gratifying to the Committee. Mr. Hemmenway receives credit for the faithful manner in which he met every duty.

PETERS HIGH SCHOOL.

Miss Margaret Macgregor, of Framingham, has been retained as Principal through the year. During the Winter Term, she was assisted by Miss Lizzie H. Haynes, of Hartford, Ct. Three hundred and fifty dollars were appropriated for this school. This sum has been augmented by private subscription, to five hundred and thirty-four dollars.

Salary of Principal, - - - - -	\$450.00
Assistants Received, - - - - -	84.00
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Total, - - - - -	\$534.00

The Principal has not spared, but given her whole strength to her profession; not a moment has been lost. The scholars have been impressed with the necessity of personal exertion; that the school-room is no place for idlers. The teacher arranged the numerous classes with great skill and judgment; thus affording each scholar sufficient opportunity for preparation. Hence the propriety of her requiring of each, a perfect lesson. When we visited this school, we found every well-disposed scholar at work, and apparently with a will.

The teacher has a quiet, but a most effectual way of keeping up the interest; and this, not by her manner at recitation only, but by her whole bearing in the school-room. The examination at the close of the Summer Term, was very creditable. We marked the general exercise in Mental Arithmetic, as being not only ingenious, but highly profitable; giving great facility and promptness in computation, and, what is of still greater moment, imparting also a general vigor to the mind. A large class in Physical Geography was listened to with much attention. At the close, the scholars

surprised the teacher with an escreteoire, a testimonial of their affection and regard. The presentation was felicitously made by two of the school-girls.

Fall Term.—There was no regular examination; a few friends only were present. The exercises, a sort of general review, indicated thoroughness and familiarity.

Winter Term.—Owing to increased numbers, the Committee were obliged to procure an assistant. Miss Lizzie H. Haynes has acted in this capacity. This teacher is a graduate of the Normal School in one of the sister States. Much credit is due to her, for the faithfulness and ability with which she has discharged every duty.

The Principal endeavored to make this the most profitable school of all, as it was to end her labors with us. It gave her much pain to be obliged to expel some of her older pupils, for disobedience, near the close of the last term. We regret that it is not in our power, to retain her longer in this capacity. By the conditions of the "Gift," we are obliged to provide a Master, for and after this year.

We congratulate our fellow-citizens, that we entertain in common with them, the opinion that the times are ripe for, and demand such an institution as this. The time was, when the people imagined a common school education quite completed, when twenty summers had been seen; no matter whether the boy or girl had attended half, or a quarter of the time, that the schools had been in session. Age was mistaken for acquirements. This standard has long since been set aside, as not only insufficient, but dangerous. In our day, when knowledge is so diffused, it is not surprising to meet a youth of twelve years, quite as well informed as his grandfather was at majority. Strange as the paradox may seem, they are no more advanced for our times, than their grandparents were in their day. In nearly all the towns roundabout, Public High Schools are main-

tained, the beneficial effects of which are being witnessed daily. We shall never consent to remain in the back ground. It is no dishonorable admission, that our youth need education, as well as those of our neighbors; and shall they not receive it? That such a school is imperatively needed, is shown, not only by the present number attending, but also, by the numerous applicants continually knocking for admission. Our standard of qualification for admission to this school, has been adjusted to the present condition of our common schools; just high enough to prevent being crowded, and low enough to admit every good scholar in town. In this way, its character as a High School has been maintained, while at the same time, no parties have been aggrieved. Already, we think a good effect is being wrought in our District Schools, by the increased efforts the youth are making, to come up to the standard required.

As we turn, now, to take a retrospective view of the results of the past year's labor, remembering how difficult it always is, and probably ever will be, to measure even with tolerable exactitude, the progress of our schools, as we can judge only by outward appearances, not being able, always to take into account, what has been done by moral instruction for the regimen of the heart, a matter of very grave importance—how many wrong biases have been corrected, false judgment rectified; and, implanted in their stead, a clearer moral discernment—nevertheless, we are confident in reporting great improvement. The past, is in advance of the previous year. The march is onward and upward. Steadily, we are gaining ground. A revolution has been wrought in those districts, where new houses have been located. The youth have taken a new view of school-going; they look upon it as a sober reality; an enterprise in which they are much concerned. It is our purpose to encourage and cherish this impression.

In conclusion, we may say, that more has been done by the town, the past year, than was ever dreamed of before; and while the beneficial effects should not be expected suddenly, and at once; still they are begun, and their silent working shall more and more be felt and appreciated year by year.

RICHARDSON GODDARD,	} <i>School Committee of Southboro'.</i>
JONAS FAY,	
HENRY H. PETERS.	

Southboro', March 31, 1860.

BOOKS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMMITTEE.

READERS.—Sargent's Series.

SPELLER.—Worcester's.

WRITING.—Payson, Dunton & Scribner's Series.

PHYSIOLOGY.—Cutter's.

ARITHMETIC.—Greenleaf's Series.

“ Colburn's First Lessons.

“ Emerson's First Part.

GEOGRAPHY.—Cornell's Series.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.—Warren's.

GRAMMAR.—Green's Elements.

“ Quackenbos' First Lessons in Composition.

ALGEBRA.—Greenleaf's.

PHILOSOPHY.—Olmsted's.

CHEMISTRY.—Comstock's.

ASTRONOMY.—Olmsted's.

HISTORY.—Quackenbos'.

